

Application No. 09/726,589
Amendment After Final
August 9, 2005

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) A functional component as a gate plate of an automatic gear shift mechanism with a locking gate, having engagement holes for engagement elements which kinetically interact with the functional component, wherein the functional component comprises at least three stamped parts, which lie flat sandwiched against one another, are unreleasably connected to one another and each have at least two engagement holes for engagement elements which kinetically interact with the functional component, the engagement holes in the stamped parts being arranged congruently with respect to one another, at least one of said holes, in a middle one of the stamped parts, having a hole wall which is provided with an elastomeric plastic cover.

2-3. (cancelled)

4. (original) Functional component according to Claim 1, wherein the plastic cover is formed by injection-moulding plastic around a hole edge.

5. (currently amended) A functional component as a gate plate of an automatic gear shift mechanism with a locking gate, having engagement holes for engagement elements which kinetically interact with the functional

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component, wherein the functional component comprises at least three stamped parts, which lie flat sandwiched against one another, are unreleasably connected to one another and each have at least two engagement holes for engagement elements which kinetically interact with the functional component, the engagement holes in the stamped parts being arranged congruently with respect to one another, at least one of said holes, in a middle one of the stamped parts, having a hole wall which is provided with an elastomeric plastic cover.

~~Functional component according to Claim 4,~~ wherein connecting webs lead from the injection-moulded plastic around the hole edge, which said webs run on a base surface of the middle stamped part, are of the injection-moulded plastic and from which plug-in domes, which project from the base surface, are formed out at certain points on the webs, and

wherein correspondingly dimensioned passage holes, into which the plug-in domes are fitted, are formed on the two outer stamped parts, congruently with respect to the plug-in domes.

6. (previously presented) Functional component according to Claim 5,

wherein the passage holes at the location of the plug-in domes are also formed on the middle stamped part, and

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wherein the plug-in domes or the connecting webs belonging to one side of the middle stamped part are joined integrally to the plug-in domes or the connecting webs belonging to the other side via the passage holes.

7. (previously presented) Functional component according to Claim 5, wherein, in a plugged-in position, the plug-in domes project out of the passage holes of the outer stamped parts and bear against the outer sides of the outer stamped parts, which are remote from the middle stamped part, by way of a flat head which is wider than the dimension of the passage holes.

8. (previously presented) Functional component according to Claim 4, wherein spacer lugs are formed from a material which is harder than the injection-moulded plastic on inner sides, of the outer stamped parts which face towards the middle stamped part.

9-19. (cancelled)

20. (previously presented) A gate plate for an automatic gear shift mechanism which has engagement holes for glidingly accommodating movable gear shift mechanism engagement elements, comprising:

at least three stamped metal sheet parts stacked together sandwiched, each of said metal sheet parts including at least one engagement hole aligned with engagement holes in the other metal sheet parts,

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and an elastomeric plastic cover provided to surround at least a portion of the engagement hole in a middle one of the metal sheet parts.

21-23. (cancelled)

24. (original) A gate plate according to Claim 20, wherein the elastomeric plastic cover is clicked into place on said metal part.

25. (original) A gate plate according to Claim 20, wherein the elastomeric plastic cover is injection-moulded onto the middle part.

26-32. (cancelled)